

EXHIBIT

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DATE

4/9/2013

SB

397

rodcarol

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**Sent:** Sunday, April 07, 2013 10:22 PM  
**Subject:** S B 397

Dear Representative of the House Fish & Game Committee:

I wanted to drive the 600 mile round trip to address you again in person, but just cannot make it. Please consider these ideas generated by the 55 members of the Libby Rod & Gun Club.

1. This bill is too encompassing. It deals with 4 Montana Big Game animals and presumes that some are of more importance than others.

2. Having a trigger effect to do all that this bill would do is a mistake in my opinion. There could be many different reasons besides too many predators that might drop an elk population below goal levels set years

ago. Some trained Biologist in the Fish Wildlife and Parks should study the reason much as they are going to do now with Moose. Habitat changes or disease might be unrelated reasons that could lower

an elk population.

3. The trigger effect would release all the actions described in this bill on individual hunting units. This would create an enforcement nightmare for the F W & P's Game officials and wardens. It would also be  
confusing to hunters.

4. One bill to run bears with hounds was presented in a bill last month and defeated. We feel this was the correct choice.

5. We already have set quotas and permit levels for mountain lions all around the state. These are set, based on current populations in given hunting units, by area biologists with input from the public. We  
feel this should not be interfered with.

6. We oppose the use of snares to harvest wolves. Well over 230 nontargeted animals were snared incidentally in Idaho's first wolf snaring season. ( These were the ones reported by trappers in 2011-2012)

About half of these died. These included deer, elk, moose, mountain lion, bear, eagles, etc.

7. In region One we hunt mountain lions under a permit system that limits nonresidents to 10% of the permits. Under this law 50 nonresidents could suddenly have licenses under provision 3b and not even need  
a hound hunting license.

8. We also feel that the outfitter sponsoring this bill might have a conflict of interest in its outcome.

In our opinion this bill covers way too much. It is a bit hard for an individual to realize all the ramifications. It should be broken into component parts so everyone can understand all the implications. Libby Rod & Gun Club members feel this is a very bad bill and strongly encourage you to vote "NO" and kill this in committee.

Thank you.

Don Clark, President  
Libby Rod & Gun Club  
Libby, Mt. 59923

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